

## AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings:

1. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method of sharing an instant messaging environment comprising:

transmitting an instant messaging environment identifier corresponding to a selected instant messaging environment from a transmitting instant messaging application to a receiving instant messaging application, wherein an instant messaging conversation between said transmitting instant messaging application and said receiving instant messaging application is displayed in a history window on said transmitting instant messaging application and a history window on said receiving instant messaging application, and wherein the selected instant messaging environment affects at least one of:

- a) how said receiving instant messaging application behaves when the instant messaging conversation includes certain content;
- b) the appearance of the history window on said receiving instant messaging application; and
- c) a definition of a user interface command processed by said receiving instant messaging application;

receiving the instant messaging environment identifier at the receiving instant messaging application; and

activating the selected instant messaging environment in the receiving instant messaging application.

2. (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 further including determining whether the transmitting instant messaging application is an eligible instant messaging application.
3. (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 further including determining whether the selected instant messaging environment corresponding to the transmitted instant messaging environment identifier is stored on a node comprising the receiving instant messaging application.
4. (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 further including determining whether the selected instant messaging environment corresponding to the transmitted instant messaging environment identifier has expired.
5. (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 further including downloading the selected instant messaging environment from a source that stores the selected instant messaging environment.
6. (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the instant messaging environment identifier is transmitted with an instant message.
7. (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment specifies a background for the history window on said receiving instant messaging application.

8. (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment specifies an animation for the history window on said receiving instant messaging application.
9. (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment specifies functions that execute when certain words are included in the instant messaging conversation.
10. (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment specifies functions that execute when certain combinations of words are included in the instant messaging conversation.
11. (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment specifies functions that execute when certain emoticons are included in the instant messaging conversation.
12. (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment includes a link.
13. (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment includes a watermark.
14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 further including tracking that an instant messaging environment identifier is sent.
16. (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 further including tracking that a certain function contained in an instant messaging environment is executed.
17. – 23. (Cancelled)
24. (Previously Presented) A computer program product for sharing an instant messaging environment, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer executable instructions for:
- transmitting an instant messaging environment identifier corresponding to a selected instant messaging environment from a transmitting instant messaging application to a receiving instant messaging application, wherein an instant messaging conversation between said transmitting instant messaging application and said receiving instant messaging application is displayed in a history window on said transmitting instant messaging application and a history window on said receiving instant messaging application, and wherein the selected instant messaging environment affects at least one of:
- a) how said receiving instant messaging application behaves when the instant messaging conversation includes certain content;
  - b) the appearance of the history window on said receiving instant messaging application; and

c) a definition of a user interface command processed by said receiving instant messaging application;  
receiving the instant messaging environment identifier at the receiving instant messenger messaging application; and  
activating the selected instant messaging environment in the receiving instant messaging application.

25. (Previously Presented) A system for sharing an instant messaging environment comprising a first instant messaging application configured to:  
transmit an instant messaging environment identifier corresponding to a selected instant messaging environment; and a second instant messaging application configured to:  
receive the instant messaging environment identifier at the second instant messaging application; and  
activate the selected instant messaging environment in the second instant messaging application;  
wherein an instant messaging conversation between said first instant messaging application and said second instant messaging application is displayed in a history window on said first instant messaging application and a history window on said second instant messaging application, and wherein the selected instant messaging environment affects at least one of:  
a) how said second instant messaging application behaves when the instant messaging conversation includes certain content;

- b) the appearance of the history window on said second instant messaging application; and
- c) a definition of a user interface command processed by said second instant messaging application.

26. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method of sharing an instant messaging environment comprising:
- transmitting an instant messaging environment identifier corresponding to a selected instant messaging environment from a transmitting instant messaging application to a receiving instant messaging application, wherein an instant messaging conversation between said transmitting instant messaging application and said receiving instant messaging application is displayed in a history window on said transmitting instant messaging application and a history window on said receiving instant messaging application, and wherein the selected instant messaging environment affects at least one of:
- a) how said receiving instant messaging application behaves when the instant messaging conversation includes certain content;
  - b) the appearance of the history window on said receiving instant messaging application; and
  - c) a definition of a user interface command processed by said receiving instant messaging application;
- wherein the receiving instant messaging application is configured to:

receive the instant messaging environment identifier at the receiving instant messaging application;

retrieve a stored instant messaging environment corresponding to the instant messaging environment identifier; and

activate the retrieved instant messaging environment in the receiving instant messaging application.

27. (Previously Presented) A computer program product for sharing an instant messaging environment, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer executable instructions for:

selecting the instant messaging environment from a set of stored instant messaging environments; and

transmitting an instant messaging environment identifier corresponding to the selected instant messaging environment from a transmitting instant messaging application to a receiving instant messaging application, wherein an instant messaging conversation between said transmitting instant messaging application and said receiving instant messaging application is displayed in a history window on said transmitting instant messaging application and a history window on said receiving instant messaging application, and wherein the selected instant messaging environment affects at least one of:

a) how said receiving instant messaging application behaves when the instant messaging conversation includes certain content;

b) the appearance of the history window on said receiving instant messaging application; and

c) a definition of a user interface command processed by said receiving instant messaging application;

wherein the receiving instant messaging application is configured to:

receive the instant messaging environment identifier at the receiving instant messaging application;

retrieve a stored instant messaging environment corresponding to the instant messaging environment identifier; and

activate the retrieved instant messaging environment in the receiving instant messaging application.

28. (Previously Presented) A system for sharing an instant messaging environment comprising:

a memory configured to store a set of instant messaging environments;

a processor configured to select the instant messaging environment from the set of stored instant messaging environments; and

an interface configured to transmit an instant messaging environment identifier corresponding to the selected instant messaging environment, wherein an instant messaging conversation between a transmitting instant messaging application and a receiving instant messaging application is displayed in a history window on said transmitting instant messaging application and a history window on said receiving instant messaging application, and wherein the selected instant messaging environment affects at least one of:

a) how said receiving instant messaging application behaves when the instant messaging conversation includes certain content;



- b) the appearance of the history window on said receiving instant messaging application; and
- c) a definition of a user interface command processed by said receiving instant messaging application.

29. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method of implementing an instant messaging environment comprising:
- receiving an instant messaging environment identifier at a receiving instant messaging application;
- retrieving a stored instant messaging environment corresponding to the instant messaging environment identifier; and
- activating the retrieved instant messaging environment, wherein an instant messaging conversation between a transmitting instant messaging application and said receiving instant messaging application is displayed in a history window on said transmitting instant messaging application and a history window on said receiving instant messaging application, and wherein the selected instant messaging environment affects at least one of:
- a) how said receiving instant messaging application behaves when the instant messaging conversation includes certain content;
  - b) the appearance of the history window on said receiving instant messaging application; and
  - c) a definition of a user interface command processed by said receiving instant messaging application.

30. (Previously Presented) A computer program product for implementing an instant messaging environment, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer executable instructions for:
- retrieving a stored instant messaging environment corresponding to the instant messaging environment identifier; and
- activating the retrieved instant messaging environment, wherein an instant messaging conversation between a transmitting instant messaging application and a receiving instant messaging application is displayed in a history window on said transmitting instant messaging application and a history window on said receiving instant messaging application, and wherein the selected instant messaging environment affects at least one of:
- a) how said receiving instant messaging application behaves when the instant messaging conversation includes certain content;
  - b) the appearance of the history window on said receiving instant messaging application; and
  - c) a definition of a user interface command processed by said receiving instant messaging application.
31. (Previously Presented) system for implementing an instant messaging environment comprising:
- an interface configured to receive an instant messaging environment identifier at a receiving instant messaging application;
- a memory configured to store instant messaging environments; and

a processor configured to retrieve from the memory a stored instant messaging environment corresponding to the instant messaging environment identifier and to activate the retrieved instant messaging environment, wherein an instant messaging conversation between a transmitting instant messaging application and a receiving instant messaging application is displayed in a history window on said transmitting instant messaging application and a history window on said receiving instant messaging application, and wherein the selected instant messaging environment affects at least one of:

- a) how said receiving instant messaging application behaves when the instant messaging conversation includes certain content;
- b) the appearance of the history window on said receiving instant messaging application; and
- c) a definition of a user interface command processed by said receiving instant messaging application.

32 – 33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment affects how said transmitting instant messaging application behaves when the instant messaging conversation includes certain content.

35. (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment affects the appearance of the history window on said transmitting instant messaging application.

36. (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment affects a definition of a user interface command processed by said transmitting instant messaging application.